

RAPID ALERT SYSTEM FOR FOOD AND FEED

The legal basis of the system is Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 laying down the general principles and requirements of food law, establishing the European Food Safety Authority and laying down procedures in matters of food safety (O.J. No L 31 of 1 February 2002).

The purpose of the rapid alert system for food and feed (RASFF) is to provide the control authorities with an effective tool for exchange of information on measures taken to ensure food safety.

To assist the members of the network, notifications are classified under three different headings¹:

- **ALERT NOTIFICATIONS**

Alert notifications are sent when a food or feed presenting a serious risk is on the market and when immediate action is required. Alerts are triggered by the Member State that detects the problem and has initiated the relevant measures, such as withdrawal/recall. The notification aims at giving all the members of the network the information to verify whether the concerned product is on their market, so that they also can take the necessary measures.

Consumers can be reassured that products subject to an alert notification have been withdrawn or are in the process of being withdrawn from the market. The Member States have their own mechanisms to carry out such actions, including the provision of detailed information through the media if necessary.

- **INFORMATION NOTIFICATIONS**

Information notifications concern a food or feed that was placed on the market for which a risk has been identified, but for which the other members of the network do not have to take immediate action, because the product has not reached their market or is no longer present on their market or because the nature of the risk does not require any immediate action.

- **BORDER REJECTIONS**

These notifications concern food and feed consignments that have been tested and rejected at the external borders of the EU (and the EEA²) when a health risk was found. The notifications are transmitted to all EEA border posts in order to reinforce controls and to ensure that the rejected product does not re-enter the Community through another border post.

The Commission publishes a weekly overview of RASFF notifications belonging to the above three categories. As it is necessary to strike the balance between openness and the protection of commercial information, the trade names and the identity of individual companies are not published. This is not detrimental to consumer protection, as a RASFF notification implies that all required measures have been or are in the process of being taken.

The public must be aware that the Commission is not in a position to release more information other than that published here. However, in exceptional circumstances where the protection of human health

¹ This classification was put in place on 1 January 2008 and differs from the classification used until then.

² European Economic Area

requires greater transparency, the Commission takes the appropriate action through its usual communication channels.

The Commission informs the authorities of third countries of notifications concerning products manufactured in, distributed to or dispatched from these countries. However, the fact that a country is mentioned as the origin of a product does not necessarily imply that the identified hazard(s) originated in the country concerned.

The notifications reported in the weekly overviews published on the European Commission's web site are so-called "original notifications", representing a new case reported on a health risk detected in one or more consignments of a food or feed. On these cases, control authorities are exchanging additional information on measures taken and outcome of investigations. This additional information does not appear in the publicly accessible weekly overviews.

A short explanation about some of the notification tables' columns follows.

The "notification basis" column, appearing in the alert and information notifications tables, indicates what type of control, report or investigation lay at the basis of the notification:

- border control – screening sample: notification initiated through a sample taken at a border post for analysis but the consignment was meanwhile released to the market (“screening sample”);
- official control on the market: official control on the EU (and EEA) internal market;
- company own-check: notification initiated through a company notifying the outcome of an own-check to the competent authority;
- consumer complaint: notification initiated through a consumer lodging a complaint with the competent authority;
- food poisoning outbreak: reports of a food poisoning leading to the notification of a risk in a food on the market that has caused the food poisoning.

The status column is a combination of two values, "distribution status" and "action (to be) taken".

The distribution status indicates knowledge existing **at the time of notification** about the possible distribution of the product on the market. The concept "market" is to be interpreted in a geographical way: "the internal Community market" i.e. this does not necessarily mean that the product is already on the shelves available to consumers, as often it is not.

The action (to be) taken represents the action already taken or to be taken by the notifying country **at the time of notification**. If "no action taken" is given for an **alert** notification, this normally indicates that the product is not on the market of the notifying country (therefore: no action taken by the notifying country) but it may be on the market of other member countries.

Week 2009/28

TABLE 1: ALERT NOTIFICATIONS

Notifications in blue typeface concern feed, all other notifications concern food.

DATE	NOTIFIED BY	REF.	REASON FOR NOTIFYING	NOTIFICATION BASIS	STATUS
06/07/2009	Poland	2009.0868	Salmonella (2 out of 5 samples /10g) in frozen chicken döner from Poland	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) withdrawn from the market
06/07/2009	Italy	2009.0872	Listeria monocytogenes (presence /25g) in smoked salmon from Poland	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) withdrawn from the market
07/07/2009	Germany	2009.0874	aflatoxins (B1 = 59; Tot. = 63 / B1 < 0.2; Tot. < 0.5 / B1 < 0.2; Tot. < 0.5 µg/kg - ppb) in halva with pistachios from Turkey	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) returned to dispatcher
07/07/2009	the United Kingdom	2009.0878	Bacillus pumilus and Bacillus subtilis (sum of both: 105x10E4 CFU/g) in chorizo from Spain	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) withdrawn from the market
08/07/2009	Malta	2009.0884	histamine (235; 322; 500; 250; 283; 358 mg/kg - ppm) in canned anchovies from Spain	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) recalled from consumers
08/07/2009	the Slovak Republic	2009.0885	undeclared peanut (protein: 69.70 mg/kg - ppm) in hazelnut biscuits from Bulgaria	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) withdrawn from the market
08/07/2009	the Netherlands	2009.0886	Listeria monocytogenes (> 320 CFU/g) in bienenstich cake from the Netherlands	company's own check	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) returned to dispatcher
09/07/2009	the Commission Services	2009.0887	Salmonella in whey protein supplement from the United States	official control in non-member country	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) withdrawn from the market
09/07/2009	the Slovak Republic	2009.0892	undeclared egg (29.50 mg/kg - ppm) in wheat pasta from Italy	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) relabelled
09/07/2009	Austria	2009.0893	high content of iodine (11.7; 10.2 mg/kg - ppm) in seitan from Austria	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) withdrawn from the market

DATE	NOTIFIED BY	REF.	REASON FOR NOTIFYING	NOTIFICATION BASIS	STATUS
09/07/2009	Belgium	2009.0894	Salmonella in mechanically separated pork from the Netherlands	company's own check	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) detained
09/07/2009	the United Kingdom	2009.0895	Salmonella (presence /25g) in sesame seeds and seed mix from India	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) withdrawn from the market
10/07/2009	Luxembourg	2009.0899	migration of primary aromatic amines (0.193 mg/kg - ppm) from nylon kitchen spatulas from China, dispatched from Belgium	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) detained
10/07/2009	Denmark	2009.0900	ochratoxin A (4.3; 3.6; 4.6 µg/kg - ppb) in rye flour from Germany	company's own check	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) withdrawn from the market
10/07/2009	the United Kingdom	2009.0901	breakage (broken bottle neck) of glass bottles containing wine from Italy	consumer complaint	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) recalled from consumers
10/07/2009	Cyprus	2009.0902	undeclared nuts (hazelnut protein: 53 mg/kg - ppm) in halva with cocoa from Greece	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) relabelled
10/07/2009	France	2009.0903	Listeria monocytogenes (<10 CFU/g) in pâté with pineapple from Belgium	company's own check	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) withdrawn from the market

TABLE 2: INFORMATION NOTIFICATIONS

Notifications in blue typeface concern feed, all other notifications concern food.

DATE	NOTIFIED BY	REF.	REASON FOR NOTIFYING	NOTIFICATION BASIS	STATUS
06/07/2009	the Commission Services	2009.0869	migration of benzophenone (16 mg/kg - ppm) from carton packaging containing wafers filled with vanilla cream from Poland, via Austria	official control on the market	product past best before date / product (to be) withdrawn from the market
06/07/2009	Cyprus	2009.0871	fragments of bones of land animals in compound feed from Portugal	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) detained
07/07/2009	Germany	2009.0873	prohibited substance nitrofurans (metabolite) nitrofurazone (SEM) (3.2; 1.0 µg/kg - ppb) in shrimps (<i>Penaeus</i> spp) from India	border control - consignment released	distribution restricted to notifying country / reinforced checking

DATE	NOTIFIED BY	REF.	REASON FOR NOTIFYING	NOTIFICATION BASIS	STATUS
07/07/2009	Germany	2009.0875	colour migration from kebab bags from Turkey	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) withdrawn from the market
07/07/2009	Germany	2009.0876	benzo(a)pyrene (38.2 µg/kg - ppb) in hot smoked fish (Chrisichtys oheneba) from Ghana	border control - consignment released	distribution restricted to notifying country / destination of the product identified
07/07/2009	Denmark	2009.0877	Salmonella typhimurium DT 104 - multiresistant (in 1 out of 12 samples) in frozen tenderloins from the Netherlands	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) withdrawn from the market
07/07/2009	Germany	2009.0879	inadequate heat resistance of polypropylene grill brush from China	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) withdrawn from the market
07/07/2009	Cyprus	2009.0880	fragments of bones of land animals in compound fish feed from Portugal	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) detained
07/07/2009	France	2009.0881	Diarrhoeic Shellfish Poisoning (DSP) toxins (positive) in mussels (Mytilus galloprovincialis) from Spain	official control on the market	product already consumed / no stock left
07/07/2009	Italy	2009.0882	methiocarb (0.52 mg/kg - ppm) in oranges from Egypt	official control on the market	product already consumed / no stock left
07/07/2009	Finland	2009.0883	unauthorised novel food ingredient Cnidium monnieri in food supplement from the United States, via Sweden	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible) / informing authorities
09/07/2009	Denmark	2009.0888	Salmonella Saint Paul (multiresistant, presence in 5 out of 12 samples /25g) in turkey filets from Germany	official control on the market	no stock left / public warning - press release
09/07/2009	Italy	2009.0889	unauthorised substance vinpocetine in dietary supplement to improve muscle growth from the United States	official control on the market	distribution restricted to notifying country / product (to be) withdrawn from the market
09/07/2009	Italy	2009.0890	cadmium (1.613 mg/kg - ppm) in crab (Cancer pagurus) from France	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) returned to dispatcher
09/07/2009	Austria	2009.0891	prohibited substance nitrofurantoin (metabolite) nitrofurazone (SEM) in frozen tilapia filet from China, via the Netherlands	official control on the market	distribution restricted to notifying country / no stock left
09/07/2009	Germany	2009.0896	unauthorised genetically modified maize (maize Mon 88017) in extracted soya bean meal from the United States	company's own check	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) returned to dispatcher

DATE	NOTIFIED BY	REF.	REASON FOR NOTIFYING	NOTIFICATION BASIS	STATUS
09/07/2009	Slovenia	2009.0897	fraudulent health certificate(s) for fresh mushrooms from the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	border control - consignment released	distribution on the market (possible) / destination of the product identified
09/07/2009	Italy	2009.0898	parasitic infestation with Anisakis of monkfish (<i>Lophius piscatorius</i>) from the United States	official control on the market	product already consumed / product (to be) withdrawn from the market
10/07/2009	Cyprus	2009.0904	E 210 - benzoic acid (411 mg/l) unauthorised in strawberry syrup from Spain	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) withdrawn from the market
10/07/2009	Cyprus	2009.0905	E 210 - benzoic acid (732 mg/l) unauthorised in chocolate syrup from Spain	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) withdrawn from the market

TABLE 3: BORDER REJECTIONS

Notifications in blue typeface concern feed, all other notifications concern food.

DATE	NOTIFIED BY	REF.	REASON FOR NOTIFYING	ACTION (TO BE) TAKEN
06/07/2009	the Netherlands	2009.BGD	aflatoxins (B1 = 18.6; Tot. = 19.8 µg/kg - ppb) in groundnuts from Brazil	physical treatment - sorting
06/07/2009	the Netherlands	2009.BGE	aflatoxins (B1 = 17.8; Tot. = 20.8 µg/kg - ppb) in groundnuts from Brazil	physical treatment - sorting
06/07/2009	Norway	2009.BGF	improper health certificate(s) for milk protein concentrate from New Zealand, via the United States and via China	product (to be) destroyed
06/07/2009	the Netherlands	2009.BGG	fraudulent health certificate(s) for frozen mussel meat IQF (<i>Mytilus smaragdinus</i>) from Vietnam	product (to be) destroyed
06/07/2009	Poland	2009.BGH	aflatoxins (B1 = 2.38; Tot. = 5.39 µg/kg - ppb) in blanched groundnut kernels from Argentina	product (to be) re-dispatched
06/07/2009	the Netherlands	2009.BGI	fraudulent health certificate(s) for frozen IQF mussel meat (<i>Mytilus smaragdinus</i>) from Vietnam	product (to be) destroyed
06/07/2009	Italy	2009.BGJ	too high level of total migration (114.5 mg/dm ²) from plastic kitchen utensils from China	product (to be) re-dispatched
06/07/2009	the Netherlands	2009.BGK	fraudulent health certificate(s) for frozen baby clams (<i>Ruditapes philippinarum</i>) from Vietnam	product (to be) destroyed
06/07/2009	Italy	2009.BGL	too high level of total migration (23.8 mg/dm ²) from iron can with plastic lid from China	product (to be) re-dispatched
07/07/2009	Greece	2009.BGM	migration of DIBP - diisobutyl phthalate and of MEHP - mono(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate from PVC cling film from Turkey	product (to be) destroyed
07/07/2009	Germany	2009.BGN	triazophos (0.48 mg/kg - ppm) in okra (<i>Abelmoschus esculentus</i>) from India	product (to be) destroyed
07/07/2009	Poland	2009.BGO	lead (0.30 mg/kg - ppm) in yellow peas from Ukraine	product (to be) re-dispatched

DATE	NOTIFIED BY	REF.	REASON FOR NOTIFYING	ACTION (TO BE) TAKEN
07/07/2009	Italy	2009.BGP	bad hygienic state of Norway lobster (<i>Nephrops norvegicus</i>) from Tunisia	product (to be) destroyed
07/07/2009	Slovenia	2009.BGQ	chilled bovine meat from Croatia with defective packaging	product (to be) re-dispatched
09/07/2009	Spain	2009.BGR	spoilage and bulging packaging of canned bivalve molluscs from Chile	product (to be) re-dispatched or destroyed
09/07/2009	Italy	2009.BGS	unauthorised use of colour E 127 - erythrosine in spaghetti condiment from the Philippines	product (to be) re-dispatched
09/07/2009	Germany	2009.BGT	unauthorised genetically modified premium Hawaii papaya from the United States	product (to be) re-dispatched or destroyed
09/07/2009	Germany	2009.BGU	Salmonella Brandenburg (presence /25g) in lamb meal from New Zealand	product (to be) re-dispatched or destroyed
09/07/2009	Poland	2009.BGV	rodent excrements in dried hibiscus flowers from Nigeria	product (to be) detained
10/07/2009	Germany	2009.BGW	unauthorised substance sulphadimidine (42 µg/kg - ppb) in comb honey from Turkey	product (to be) re-dispatched
10/07/2009	Germany	2009.BGX	prohibited substance nitrofurane (metabolite) nitrofurazone (SEM) (2.3 µg/kg - ppb) in shrimps (<i>Macrobrachium spp</i>) from India	product (to be) destroyed
10/07/2009	Poland	2009.BGY	dried cut hibiscus flowers from Nigeria infested with insects	product (to be) detained
10/07/2009	Italy	2009.BGZ	too high content of E 210 - benzoic acid (458 mg/l) in fruit beverages from the Philippines	product (to be) re-dispatched
10/07/2009	Belgium	2009.BHA	prohibited substance nitrofurane (metabolite) nitrofurazone (SEM) (15; 4.8; 16; 4.3; 3.8 µg/kg - ppb) in frozen shrimps from India	product (to be) re-dispatched
10/07/2009	Italy	2009.BHB	fenitrothion (0.16 mg/kg - ppm) in chickpeas from Argentina	product (to be) re-dispatched
10/07/2009	Greece	2009.BHC	aflatoxins (B1 = 61.7; Tot. = 71.2 µg/kg - ppb) in pistachios from the United States	product (to be) re-dispatched or destroyed

TABLE 4: CORRIGENDA TO PREVIOUS NOTIFICATIONS

DATE:	REF.:	NOTIFICATION:	OF WEEK	SUBJECT	CORRIGENDUM:
07/07/2009	inf02	2009.0656	22	Salmonella Senftenberg in soya protein concentrate from Uruguay, via the Netherlands	The country of origin of the raw material is unknown.
07/07/2009	inf01	2009.0862	27	unauthorised establishment for ovine carcasses from Spain	The notified product is ovine and not bovine carcasses.
06/07/2009	inf01	2009.0866	27	Escherichia coli O157 in frozen cooked minced beef from Brazil, via the Netherlands	The subject of the notification is modified into: "Escherichia coli O157 (presence in 2 out of 5 samples) in frozen cooked minced beef from Brazil, via the Netherlands".
06/07/2009	inf01	2009.BGA	27	migration of nickel from pans from China	The hazard concerned is nickel instead of aluminium.

TABLE 5: WITHDRAWALS OF PREVIOUS NOTIFICATIONS

DATE:	REF.:	NOTIFI- CATION:	OF WEEK	SUBJECT	REASON FOR WITHDRAWAL:
06/07/2009	add01	2009.ATB	16	aluminium in beef noodles from Indonesia	After the laboratory examination of the reference sample, it was found out that the sample complies with the provisions of Regulation (EEC) No 315/93 and the implicated product was released to the market.
10/07/2009	add01	2009.AXV	20	aluminium in instant noodles from Singapore	After the laboratory examination of the reference sample, it was found out that the sample complies with the provisions of Regulation (EEC) No 315/93 and the implicated product was released to the market.